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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Please don't follow USTelecom's suggestion to reduce broadband competition. As you well know, government regulation is critical in markets with large fixed-cost infrastructure (natural monopolies).

Personally, having suffered for many years with only two options (AT&T was bad; Time Warner was worse), I was very happy to move to a market with more competition 5 years ago. I signed up with Socket (a local company in Columbia, MO), and I have been extremely pleased with the service. I worry that Socket and consequently my family and I would be harmed by removing the obligation to lease infrastructure to companies like Socket.

As a PhD economics professor, I feel like the right decision is obvious; I hope you have the fortitude to make it.

Thanks for reading.

David Kaplan